

## **UNDAUNTED STEWARDSHIP®**

### **PURPOSE OF THE BRIEFING DOCUMENT:**

To provide a status update on the Undaunted Stewardship® program.

### **ISSUES:**

Undaunted Stewardship® received earmarked, pass-through funding from the BLM during fiscal years 2001-2006. However, no funding was earmarked for the program in 2007 or 2008, and future funding remains uncertain.

The Undaunted Stewardship® Executive Council is developing a transition plan for the program and considering what aspects of the program will continue or be transitioned to new initiatives. Undaunted Stewardship® is now operating and completing projects with funds remaining from previous allocations. A two-year budget exists for the remainder of the funds. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Montana BLM and Montana State University expires in 2011.

### **Background:**

Undaunted Stewardship® is a cooperative program directed jointly by federal, state, and private agencies with guidance from statewide historic, conservation, and agricultural groups. Undaunted Stewardship® is guided by the Executive Council, which includes representatives from the Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana State University, and Montana BLM.

Originally, the concept for this program came from Montana's ranching and agricultural community. It was initiated to recognize the stewardship of private landowners which has resulted in many areas along the Lewis and Clark Trail remaining undeveloped and closely resembling what Lewis and Clark saw during their expedition through the state. The program works to preserve and improve landscapes and communities along the Lewis and Clark Trail in Montana. This is accomplished by developing on-the-ground projects with private landowners that further enhance the natural resources along the trail, such as grazing management plans, a ranch certification program, and interpretive kiosks.

Undaunted Stewardship® has been nationally recognized, receiving the Western Extension Directors Award of Excellence in July 2007 and the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Chairman's Award for Federal Achievement in Historic Preservation in May 2005.

### **MAIN DECISION OR MESSAGE:**

The goals and objectives within Undaunted Stewardship® are evolving and the program is in a state of transition. The Executive Council is working on plans to transition some new initiatives to other partners, while looking at the potential of maintaining some of the core elements of the program. Maintaining a core Undaunted Stewardship® program will require a new funding source.

### **BUREAU PERSPECTIVE:**

The BLM supports the core program; however, new initiatives will need to be reviewed to determine if they are within the BLM's scope and mission. The Undaunted Stewardship® program has been an excellent example of cooperative conservation that will continue to benefit cultural and natural resources for years to come.

The program developed during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial was funded through the BLM with earmarked funds, and focused on stewardship along the Lewis and Clark Trail. The successes of the program include certification of over 55 ranches and the development of 11 interpretive sites. The BLM plans to continue working with Montana State University and Montana Stockgrowers to build upon the past successes and develop and maintain new partnerships and initiatives where appropriate for common goals and objectives, as the program transitions.

### **CONTACT:**

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